

We held our annual Tent Event on June 22, 2011. The event is meant to celebrate the good works of community groups and the successes of small business owners. And conduct our AGM. This year two milestone anniversaries were also celebrated – the 25<sup>th</sup> year of service for Sagehill and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of staff member, Susan Wehage.

“Celebrating 25 years of services encourages you to pause and take a look at where you’ve been,” said June Vogelgesang, Sagehill Chair, in her opening remarks. She went on to say, “Over time Sagehill has impacted more than 50% of the small businesses in each community in our region. And



when we looked further we realized that we had provided more than 24000 advisory and information services. That’s talking with 4 small business owners each day our office has been open. No wonder each day has been such a pleasure!”

A number of reports were presented throughout the evening. Folks also had the opportunity to review financial statements, hear updates on programs, products and services and award two Taking Care of Business Scholarships – the first to Kathryn Sarauer, Anaheim School, and the second to Tessa Turner, Nokomis School. There was also plenty of time to catch up with old friends, make some new ones, and do a bit of business as well.

The last formal piece of business of the evening was the election of Directors. Two seats were open. The membership returned June Vogelgesang for a third term and elected Blake Peters to his first term. Blake and his wife, Darlene, own Tree House Treasures in St. Benedict. June and Blake join Alfred Washburn, Carol Marriott, Janet Hering, and Tyler Brett.



The evening included a presentation to Susan Wehage in recognition for her 20 years of service. Susan joined the Sagehill team in January 1991. Vogelgesang told the crowd that Susan has been and continues to be a staunch supporter of small

business and of the people and communities in our region. And, concluded by saying, “we’ve certainly appreciated her dedication to our collective cause, her willingness to lead and her ‘can do’ attitude.” Susan accepted her gift to a standing ovation.

Sue Echlin wrapped up our evening by sharing their small business story. Sue and her partner Vance Lester are proprietors of Living Sky Winery. They were inspired to open a winery in 2005 after touring British Columbia and sampling fruit wines. When they got home they planted a fruit orchard on their quarter section farm east of Perdue. They are dedicated to local, sustainable production, artisan craftsmanship and wine that brings a smile to your face from the first sip. It was great to hear their story. You can check out Living Sky Winery at [www.livingskywinery.com](http://www.livingskywinery.com)

Sue’s presentation was a great way to put a wrap on our 25<sup>th</sup> year. You can find the Sagehill Annual Report at [www.sagehill.ca](http://www.sagehill.ca)